

THE MENACE

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You Did It Again

ONCE MORE THE SUBSCRIPTION list soars skyward; and it is not blown up, either. Four thousand, two hundred and seventy-eight net gain is not a blow-up—it is a brave boost.

Week before last you sent us 6,580 new subscriptions; and if you feel half as good about it as we do, we are all happy as meadow-larks on a May morning.

One thing that makes this fine gain promise much for the future is that the new subscribers are well distributed. The number is not made up from a few large lists, but comes in small clubs from all over the country.

And the letters that come with them, when their senders take time to write, tell of a general awakening and renewed interest.

An amusing, and not unsatisfactory, phase of all this is the array of letters received from papists and pretended Protestants who plead popery's case with everything from argument to dire threats.

Their principal argument and assertion is that the "only true church" will still be here when THE MENACE is mouldering, because popery is planted on Peter, and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

That old saw has been shied at us so often as to provoke the remark by our exchange editor that maybe the gates of hell may not be strong enough to resist a papist mob. Those turbulent children of peevish popes may tear down the gates and break into hades just as they tear up so many other things and break in where they are not wanted.

Their usual admonitions, however, are descriptive of what is going to happen to us; and it is in such recitals of coming calamities that they shine. If they could realize how ridiculous such superstitious childishness appears to those it is intended to frighten, there might be a saving of cheap paper and expensive postage.

Popery will sooner or later have to defend itself before the bar of public opinion. It is still dodging the question; but the work you are doing is forcing the real issue.

The Enemy

IT IS NOT the purpose of this paper to annoy your Roman Catholic neighbor. If it inadvertently does so, it is his fault, not ours.

The enemy and adversary of this paper is the papal system, which owns, runs, rules, and corrupts what is commonly known as the Roman Catholic church.

The papal system (pope and Roman Catholic clergy) is a gigantic and powerful conspiracy against civilization. Ruled by its monarch, the pope, and administered by its princes, the cardinals, the papal system is the most autocratic power to survive the dark ages.

It invades this country by means of agents and emissaries who masquerade in the garb of religion to accomplish more readily their political ends.

Your plain and unpretentious Roman Catholic neighbor knows nothing of this. He is already the victim of papal cunning which binds his mind and renders him equally unable to understand this paper or the alleged church to which he literally belongs.

Your Roman Catholic neighbor may be an exemplary citizen in certain respects, with a private life beyond reproach. His innocence is guaranteed by his ignorance of certain facts above mentioned. It is impossible to know how much or how little he knows or realizes concerning the plans and purposes of his "religious" dictators.

Therefore it is impossible to appeal to him for redress against papal invasion and its attacks upon such American institutions as the public school. He does not, and cannot, understand us; and he is embittered against us by his priestly advisers who tell him that we are attacking him and his religion.

To defend democracy against papal imperialism, and the schools of this republic against the invading "religious" enemy, we must make our appeal and sound our warning among those who are already free from papal influence.

Our plea is to Protestants and progressive people generally—not to wage war upon their Roman Catholic neighbors; but to defeat the purposes of the papal system (pope, cardinal princes, monsignors, archbishops, bishops, priests, and other pampered parasites of that conspiracy) to upset, discredit, and destroy American civilization.

Be just as good to your Roman Catholic neighbor as he will permit; but remember that he is a subject of the imperial pope, and, therefore, no more fit to entrust with public office or political power than subjects of the Japanese mikado or subjects of the Turkish sultan.

Your Roman Catholic neighbor's apparent goodness as a private citizen no more qualifies him for public office than the honesty of a German neighbor justifies kaiserism. If you understand this, you will not misunderstand THE MENACE.

Women Under the Canon Law

By GILBERT O. MATTONS,
President Free Press Defense League, 21 Ellis Bldg., Washington, D. C.

VOLUMES WOULD BE REQUIRED to set forth in any measure of detail the wrongs which women have suffered under the canon law of the Roman church. The record is indeed long and cruel.

During the dark papal centuries ample provision of law was arranged for traffic in the faith, virtue and purity of womanhood that has no parallel in the records of sin and venality. Not until the books are opened in the great final judgment will the people know the extent of this stupendous infamy.

Only the barest outlines of the tragic story can be sketched within the necessary limits of this paper. After three centuries of persecution, Christianity was taken into partnership with the Roman Empire in the reign of Constantine. In this worldly exaltation, the church abandoned its pristine simplicity and pursuit of righteousness and entered upon its mediæval career of venality and intrigue.

From such complicity of the church in civil and military ambitions, devout Christians turned sadly away to the convent and the monastery. Those institutions, transplanted into Europe from Egypt and the East, multiplied rapidly and soon over-spread the continent. Persons so driven to monastic life in the early centuries retained the right to withdraw therefrom at their own volition.

But the hierarchy, thirsting for wealth and power, saw in the monastic orders a productive asset which was quickly appropriated. Enslavement of the monks and nuns was effectuated by placing each under a solemn vow of poverty, chastity and obedience which was irrevocable under penalty of death and eternal damnation.

Notwithstanding the vow of poverty which prevents members of the orders from holding property in their individual right, canons were enacted that poured the riches of the world into institutions in their corporate capacity and thence into the coffers of the vast ecclesiastical empire. The vow of chastity removed the possibility of marriage, while the obligation of obedience forced the monastics under the most abject slavery that ever degraded human beings.

In order to fill the convents with the charming young womanhood of the world, priests constantly exploited convent life as the supreme ideal of Christian sanctity and virtue. To this end they deified the mother of Jesus as a perpetual virgin, mother of God, queen of heaven and the one compassionate mediatrix between a stern and vindictive God and frail humanity. Though the Bible discloses that she was the dutiful mother of several children, popery has heaped upon the peasant wife of Joseph mountains of idolatry and blasphemy under pretense that she remained a virgin all her life.

During the papal centuries known as the Dark Ages, illiteracy was virtually universal. Under that condition, priests were able to lure the unlearned maidenhood of papal Europe into the fatal trap of a vow and consequent life imprisonment from which there was absolutely no escape.

Once the childish victim passed within the massive gate of the outer prison and the iron door into dark buildings of a Roman convent, her natural life was terminated as effectually as if she were in the tomb. She could never again look upon the faces of loved ones nor the beauties of nature so eloquent of the glory of God and so essential to the normal development of childhood and youth.

Under the canon law she was regarded as dead. Her property was administered by the ecclesiastical courts and the proceeds delivered to the convent. By methods so summary was the purity and beauty and wealth of European girlhood engulfed in the yawning vortex of priestly lust and venality and lost forever to the joys and duties of Christian life and service and fellowship.

It would be impossible to estimate the number of

young lives thus degraded and blotted out, but the aggregate might exceed the present female population of the world. No wonder the Messiah, seated on the western slope of the Mount of Olives and contemplating the ages to come, warned His disciples sadly that iniquity would be multiplied and false Christs and false prophets would ensnare and debauch the very elect.

The sixteenth century Reformation opened the cruel doors of these horrible dens in many European lands and released their millions of inmates. But in all Roman Catholic countries and in the United States, cloistered nunneries, Houses of the Good Shepherd and other Roman prisons still hold women and children in the iron grip of slavery and death while defying inspection or supervision by the civil power.

The avowed policy of these alien prisons is that no child or woman committed to their chambers of gloom and mystery shall ever escape to tell the story. But a few heroic nuns have regained their liberty in spite of steel doors, barred windows, penitentiary walls and priestly vigilance.

What do the escaped nuns tell? Ask Barbara Ubryk. Ask Maria Monk. Ask Edith O'Gorman. Ask the young girls that have escaped from Houses of the Good Shepherd or broken their limbs and been recaptured in the effort to escape by leaping from upstairs windows. What answer does Rome make to the unanimous testimony of these earnest women to the unparalleled beastiality, torture and murder that make up the daily routine of these nuclei of the underworld.

Rome answers with preemptory demand that the witnesses be silenced by force and subjected to torture and execution by the church for breaking vows that were forced upon inexperienced childhood.

In past centuries great cloisters held thousands of nuns and monks under one roof. The most elementary knowledge of human nature is sufficient to grasp the significance of that monstrous condition, which the present age no longer tolerates without protest. In grudging response to the outraged conscience of the modern world, Canon 500 of the *Code of Juris Canonici* forbids any order of men to have jurisdiction over religious orders of women without a special papal indult!

It is difficult to state, even in general terms, the facts of convent life without offending the canons of taste and incurring condemnation by the postal authorities. How long will America tolerate hundreds of such harems maintained in this great republic by an alien ecclesiastical empire that defies inspection?

While the convent system is the most tangible wrong inflicted upon womanhood by papal law, it is rivaled by other forms of outrage and degradation. Early in the Middle Ages popery legalized traffic in non-Christian slaves. Individuals and private and public corporations at Venice, Genoa and other papal centers maintained agencies on the shores of the Black Sea to capture throngs of white slaves for markets in the West.

Beautiful young women were specially sought in this traffic. As showing active complicity of the hierarchy in this atrocious outrage, it may be mentioned for instance, that the prior of the church of St. Laurence in Genoa in the fifteenth century bought a beautiful Turkish girl named Fatima and, when tired of her, sold her in the slave market of his city for 400 new Armenian dirhems.—Historians' History of the World, Vol. IX, pages 321, 322.

The Roman church claims to be the sole enemy of the divorce evil which every good citizen so much deprecates. While boasting of its alleged opposition to divorce, that church is now busy in every great city of this country declaring legal marriages null and void. Every enthroned prelate in the United States has in his see an ecclesiastical court for that express purpose. It is time that every prelate or priest who thus presumes to set the alien law of popery above statutes on marriage and divorce enacted by congress and state legislatures should be vigorously prosecuted for treason.

Of all practical jokes the most wholesome would be a wholesale jail delivery of women locked up in Roman dungeons; and their arrogant priest jailors put in their place on coarse convent fare.

"Papal Prisons in Free America" is a pamphlet of timely interest to American women. It exposes Rome's system of penitentiaries and sweat-shops; and proposes official inspection as a safeguard against such illegal and un-American institutions. Supplied by THE MENACE at ten cents a copy.

Bellicose Belford

Priest Belford, of Brooklyn, is one of many agents of popery in this country to denounce the national prohibition law and advise his dupes to resist its enforcement.

Further light is shed on his temperament and its tendencies by the following from the *Watchman-Examiner* of March 6:

Rev. Dr. John Belford, rector of the Roman Catholic church of the Nativity, Borough of Brooklyn, New York, is angry with those who dare to criticize his position on the prohibition question. The Brooklyn *Eagle* reports that the following classic words fell from the lips of the reverend doctor at a public dinner in Brooklyn: "When I hear the way that certain ministers arraign and accuse me of making disloyal and seditious statements, I feel like going to them and knocking hell out of them." Choice language this, for a minister of the gospel! Is there any wonder that he is opposed to prohibition?

ORGANIZATION NEWS

Address all letters about organization to Box 76, Aurora, Mo.

I. O. B. organizations are multiplying rapidly.

One school, one language, one flag—that's enough for the I. O. B.

Are you getting a member for the I. O. B. every time Rome puts a man into the Knights of Columbus?

Let's organize the I. O. B. in every town where a Knight of Columbus can be found. You can help.

Developments in Washington state indicate that there will be joyous news to report in the very near future.

Boys remember the call to action is coming to all members of the I. O. B.—Will you be where you can hear the call?

If fifty navy men joining the I. O. B. in a single town in a single night doesn't indicate that they have woke up we want to know it.

Oklahoma's live secretary keeps punching the sleepy ones and reports new lodges and new members with encouraging persistence.

Billy Parker is going to talk to the Protestant forces in Kansas City some Sunday afternoon this month. Every MENACE reader has had a letter about it. Did you answer yours Mr. Kansas City man?

They say politics makes strange bed fellows. Why not? Look how many folks are asleep—they have their pick, they can even pick the wide awake folks and the sleepy ones wouldn't find it out until too late.

We can send an organizer to towns in Illinois in the north half of the state within the next few weeks. If you will get behind this movement and help our man get the boys interested in organizing let us know.

What excuse can you make to yourself and family if you fail to find out how you can help to organize the awakened forces in your town? You may not be able to organize but you surely can write a letter and offer your services as far as you are able to go.

Did you ever stop to wonder why a thousand papists will hustle to the legislative halls to protest against legislation which would make their schools do nothing more than adopt American methods and plans of operation? Then did you ever stop to think if Americans really want every school in the land Americanized they can meet the protest and get the legislation if they will only organize?

Echoes of My Recent Trip

BY BILLY PARKER

At the invitation of the Grand Lodge of Ps I attended their Florida convention last month.

They had one of the best state conventions I have ever attended and were eager for I. O. B. news and our proposition on the "get together in one big organization drive." Well I gave them the best we had in the shop and the matter was left to the discretion of the lodge. I am assured that they will affiliate just as quickly as arrangements can be completed.

At the invitation of Rev. Sam Clemens of Philadelphia, I visited in his home and lectured in Wesleyan Chapel, his church, on April 10.

I have seldom had the pleasure of a more enjoyable visit and certainly have seldom seen greater enthusiasm than predominated at the meeting which he had arranged for me. The chapel was jammed to the doors. I gave the boys an I. O. B. message straight from the shoulder and know we are going to find Philadelphia in the front ranks when the roll is called.

From Philadelphia I went to Chicago to attend the conference of patriotic women which the Free Press Defense League had called for the purpose of getting action on the Woman's branch of the I. O. B.

As the national secretary of the woman's organization announces on the front page of this issue an organization was perfected leaving the details of promotion to be worked out and applied from Aurora. Thousands of women who have been eager to get in line in the united campaign for patriotic activity will now have their chance and can work hand in glove with the I. O. B. Just as fast as we can reduce the plans to printed form we will communicate with those who have been writing in and will be glad to hear from any others who are interested.

On the 20th I responded to an urgent invitation to address a meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.

The boys certainly sprung a new one on me there. The Blue Lodge Masons had the meeting in charge and they entertained me royally. The Shriners donated their hall and everybody had gotten busy and arranged an excellent meeting. The meeting was tiled and you must know that I appreciated the way things were gotten up. It really seems to me that the Masons of Omaha have started something that the Blue Lodges all over the country ought to take up.

The meeting was advertised as "educational." You MENACE readers know what a fight they have been having on the school question in Nebraska and can surely see that the boys were bound to be enthused when they got what I could give them on the subject and then showed them how easy it would have been to get the school laws Nebraska must have if they had only been able to meet that organized army of 1000 papers who met at the state house as a committee and killed the best educational bill ever introduced in the state of Nebraska.

At the close of the meeting the chairman asked for a rising vote from all who wanted me for a return date. Every man in the hall rose to his feet. So I am looking for results from that town.

That I. O. B. message is a great one brothers when you realize just what it means if we can all get the vision and pull together—get together in one big organization and work like beavers till we make the B in BUSY and I. O. B. the most Rome-cursed letter in the world.

I enjoyed that trip as much or more than any I have taken in a long time, and I have come back to the office with more faith than ever in you boys in the field who are material out of which and upon whom we must build the I. O. B. I can't get to all of you. My job here requires my personal attention lots of the time but I can write you about organization if you will put your shoulder to the wheel and help us get ready for the fray.

We don't want to go along and sleep on our rights until other legislatures meet and other elections are held and then wish we had done something. We want to do and we must. I can help you to a way out of the difficulties in your town if you will help me by doing your bit at your end of the line. Anybody can do some of the things suggested in the blank below and it will only take you a moment to send it in. Let's all use it!

I WANT TO HELP

FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE, Lock Box 76, Aurora, Mo.

Gentlemen:

How can my lodge get into the I. O. B.?

Tell me how I can help organize in my community.

Tell me how I can become a member of the Universal Lodge, I. O. B.

Enclosed find \$..... to be used in organization of the forces in my state.

(Draw a line under the sentence that fits your case)

Name.....

Address..... State.....